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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000800060018-5

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5 April 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Chief, Far East Division

SUBJECT

: Memorandum to General Scowcroft

[redacted]

1. The attached memo, signed by Bill Colby for the Director, landed on my desk prior to its dispatch. I discussed it with [redacted] and found that he -- from his experience on the NSC Staff -- shared my concern that in its present form it might strike the wrong note downtown.

2. The memo is of course written and intended as simply a factual report explaining why it was inadvisable for us to add the new thought raised in Scowcroft's 21 March note through the exercise which had already been launched, particularly since statements emanating from the DRV itself indicated that Hanoi had already gotten the message. Given the taut nerves and general attitude downtown, our perfectly legitimate message is liable to be misinterpreted. Even though this was the last thing intended by the drafter, the recipient could construe the note as saying we did not do what we were asked to do but no damage was done thereby. [redacted] also felt that since the President is known to be charged up on Cambodia, the chances of hypersensitivity on the part of his staff are very high.

3. I would suggest a slight recasting to convey the following message:

IMPDET CL BY [redacted]

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SECRET/ [redacted]

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a. Your 21 March request arrived after we
had already [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

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c. Recent Hanoi pronouncements indicate
that the North Vietnamese have already gotten
the word.

d. As soon as it is possible to do so [redacted]
[redacted] we will reinforce Hanoi's
appreciation through additional [redacted]
channels.

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4. The above says the same thing but, tonally, is more "forward
leaning," to coin a phrase. I talked to Colby about this and he has
no problems with the proposed rejiggering.

[redacted]
George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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Attachment

- 1 - Memos to Kissinger file
- 1 - GAC Chrono ✓

SECRET/ [redacted]

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